

WE CLAIM:

1. A radius limiter for an optical fiber cable management panel; the radius limiter comprising:
- (a) a frame piece including a vertically oriented curved wall; and a trough section adjacent to said curved wall;
 - (i) said curved wall being concavely shaped relative to said trough section; and
 - (b) a cover member oriented at least partially over the trough section;
 - (i) said cover member and said frame piece defining a cable entry aperture having a closed perimeter;
 - (A) said cable entry aperture being in communication with said trough section to permit cables to enter through the aperture and rest within the trough section;
 - (B) at least 75% of said perimeter of said cable entry aperture being circumscribed by a flared cable guide surface.
2. A radius limiter according to claim 1 wherein:
- (a) all of said perimeter of said cable entry aperture is circumscribed by said flared cable guide surface.
3. A radius limiter according to claim 1 wherein:
- (a) said cover member includes a finger defining at least one free edge;
 - (i) said free edge defining a portion of said flared guide surface.
4. A radius limiter according to claim 3 further including:
- (a) a latch arrangement releasably securing said finger to said frame piece.
5. A radius limiter according to claim 4 wherein:
- (a) said trough section is defined by a vertically oriented wall and a base;

- (i) said base bridging said vertically oriented wall and said curved wall; and
- (b) said finger includes a second free edge selectively engaging said vertically oriented wall of said trough section;
 - (i) said latch arrangement being mounted on said vertically oriented wall and said second free edge to releasably secure said finger to said frame piece.

6. A radius limiter according to claim 5 wherein:

- (a) said finger includes an attachment portion pivotally securing said finger to said frame piece.

7. A radius limiter according to claim 6 wherein:

- (a) said attachment portion comprises a pair of tabs projecting from said finger.

8. A method of limiting a radius of optical fiber cables; the method comprising:

- (a) providing a radius limiter including:
 - (i) a frame piece including a vertically oriented curved wall; and a trough section adjacent to the curved wall;
 - (ii) a cover member oriented at least partially over the trough section;
 - (A) the cover member defining at least a portion of a perimeter of a cable entry aperture;
 - (B) the portion of the perimeter of the cable entry aperture defined by the cover having a flared cable guide surface;
- (b) directing optical fiber cables through the cable entry aperture and against the flared cable guide surface of the cover member; and
- (c) after said step of directing, orienting the optical fiber cables within the trough section and against the curved wall.

9. A method according to claim 8 further including:
- (a) before said step of directing, pivoting the cover member relative to the frame piece by releasing a latch connection between the cover member and the frame piece.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein:

- (a) said step of pivoting includes rotating the cover member about a hinge point between the cover member and the frame piece.

11. An optical fiber cable management system comprising:

- (a) a first drawer assembly including a first chassis and a first drawer slidably mounted within said first chassis;
 - (i) said first chassis and first drawer defining a first storage interior;
 - (ii) said first drawer assembly defining a first cable access entry to permit optical fiber cable to enter into said first storage interior;
- (b) a second drawer assembly including a second chassis and a second drawer slidably mounted within said second chassis;
 - (i) said second chassis and second drawer defining a second storage interior;
 - (ii) said second drawer assembly defining a second cable access entry to permit optical fiber cable to enter into said second storage interior; and
- (c) a mounting bracket connecting together at least said first drawer assembly and said second drawer assembly through an interlock arrangement;
 - (i) said interlock arrangement including:
 - (A) a plurality of non-threaded stud members in one of: (i) said mounting bracket; and (ii) said first and second chassis; and

(B) a plurality of holes sized for receiving said non-threaded stud members; said plurality of holes being defined by one of (i) said mounting bracket; and (ii) said first and second chassis.

12. An optical fiber cable management system according to claim 11 wherein:

(a) said interlock arrangement includes:

- (i) at least two of said non-threaded stud members projecting from said first chassis;
- (ii) at least two of said non-threaded stud members projecting from said second chassis; and
- (iii) at least four of said holes defined by said mounting bracket receiving each of the non-threaded stud members of said first chassis and said second chassis.

13. A method of connecting a first drawer assembly to a second drawer assembly in an optical fiber cable management system; the method comprising:

- (a) providing a first and second drawer assembly; the first drawer assembly including a first drawer slidably received by a first chassis; the second drawer assembly including a second drawer slidably received by a second chassis; and
- (b) securing a bracket to the first chassis and the second chassis by inserting a non-threaded stud arrangement into an aperture arrangement.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein:

- (a) said step of securing includes inserting a plurality of non-threaded studs projecting from each of the first chassis and the second chassis into a plurality of holes sized to receive the non-threaded studs defined by the bracket.

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15. An optical fiber cable management panel comprising:
 - (a) a drawer assembly including a chassis and a drawer;
 - (i) said drawer being slidably mounted within said chassis;
 - (ii) said drawer assembly defining a storage interior and a first cable access entry to permit optical fiber cable to enter into said storage interior;
 - (b) a cable radius limiter slidably mounted relative to said drawer assembly; and
 - (c) a control mechanism secured to said drawer assembly to synchronize slidable movement of said cable radius limiter relative to slidable movement of said drawer within said chassis;
 - (i) said control mechanism including a rotating member oriented to rotate between said drawer and said chassis;
 - (ii) said rotating member having an axis of rotation that is normal to said cable radius limiter.
16. An optical fiber cable management panel according to claim 15 wherein:
 - (a) said control mechanism includes a bracket and an axle;
 - (i) said rotating member being mounted for rotation on said axle.
17. An optical fiber cable management panel according to claim 16 wherein:
 - (a) said rotating member includes a wheel.
18. An optical fiber cable management panel according to claim 17 wherein:
 - (a) said bracket includes a projection arrangement secured to said cable radius limiter.
19. An optical fiber cable management panel according to claim 18 wherein:
 - (a) said drawer includes a base defining an elongated slot;

- (i) said bracket being secured to said cable radius limiter through said elongated slot.

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20. An optical fiber cable management panel according to claim 19 wherein:

- (a) said drawer further includes a wheel guide secured thereto having a guide surface extending normal to said drawer base;
- (b) said chassis includes a base in a plane generally parallel to said drawer base; said chassis further includes a sidewall extending normal to said chassis base;
 - (i) said wheel oriented for rotation between and against said guide surface and said chassis sidewall.

21. An optical fiber cable management panel according to claim 20 wherein:

- (a) said bracket includes a catch;
- (b) said chassis includes a stop member;
 - (i) said catch selectively engaging said stop member when said drawer and said radius limiter are slid relative to said chassis.

22. In an optical fiber cable management system having a drawer assembly; the drawer assembly including a drawer slidably received by a chassis, a method for controlling slidable movement of a cable radius limiter relative to slidable movement of the drawer within the chassis; the method comprising:

- (a) rotating a wheel, secured to the cable radius limiter, between the drawer and the chassis;
 - (i) the wheel having an axis of rotation that is normal to the cable radius limiter.

23. A method according to claim 22 wherein:

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- (a) the wheel is mounted on a bracket; the drawer includes a base defining an elongated slot; the bracket is secured to the cable radius limiter through the elongated slot; the drawer further includes a wheel guide surface extending normal to the drawer base; the chassis includes a base in a plane generally parallel to the drawer base; the chassis further includes a sidewall extending normal to the chassis base; and
- (b) said step of rotating a wheel between the drawer and the chassis includes rotating the wheel between and against the guide surface and the chassis sidewall.
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